

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 7-11, 19-21, 29 and 30 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 23 and 31 as shown.

Please enter new Claim 55.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended) The preform of Claim ~~22-55~~ which further includes a rib connector integrally moulded with and extending from first non-expanding region and forming a continuous connection between said first rib and said second rib throughout the length of said loop.

Claim 24 (previously presented) The preform of Claim 23 and wherein said second non-expanding region forms part of a temperature transition zone.

Claim 25 (previously presented) The preform of Claim 24 and wherein said first non-expanding region forms part of said temperature transition zone.

Claim 26 (previously presented) The preform of Claim 24 wherein deformation of said temperature transition zone takes place during a stretch blow moulding process.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The preform of Claim 26 manufactured by a two stage injection moulding process wherein material is injected at different locations in the die to form a preform adapted to be composed from more than one type of material.

Claim 28 (original) The preform of Claim 27 wherein during at least one stage of said two stage process an inner wall and outer wall of said preform is formed, said inner wall adapted to be made from a different material from said outer wall.

Claims 29-30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended) A method of production as a two step process of an integral handle PET container from a preform which has a loop of orientable plastics material at least one loop of orientable plastics material integrally connected at both a first end and a second end to a respective first location and a separate second location on said preform and a locating ring immediately below which is a first non-expanding region and below which is a second non-expanding region; said method including the step of shrouding said loop of said preform during preheating of said preform preparatory to a stretch blow moulding step.

Claim 32 (original) The method of Claim 31 wherein the loop is fully supported in a mould cavity against movement during the stretch blow moulding operation.

Claims 33-54 (canceled)

Claim 55 (new) A preform for a container comprised of orientable plastics material and arranged so that the resultant blown container will include a handle, said preform comprising:

- a moulded structure having a neck portion and an expandable portion below the neck portion;

- a locating ring between the neck portion and the expandable portion;

- a first non-expanding region below the locating ring, the first non-expanding region formed so as to be slightly raised or otherwise differentiated from the expandable portion of said preform;

- a second non-expanding region below the first non-expanding region, wherein the second non-expanding region is not differentiated from the expandable portion of said preform; and

- at least one loop of orientable plastics material integrally connected at both a first end and a second end to a respective first location and a separate second location on said preform which when the container is formed constitutes said handle, the loop including a first rib

Application No.: 09/581,956

Response to Office Action of August 16, 2002

Attorney Docket: WDUMR-003US

integrally moulded therewith, and a second rib integrally moulded with and extending from the second non-expanding region.